क्या-क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य जिस संदर्भ में प्रश्न पूछ रहे हैं अभी तो 1992-93 और 93-94 का है। इस साल का आडिट हो रहा है। अभी तक फिगर्स नहीं आई हैं...

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: The storage losses are not only due to rats and moisture but also due to mishandling while taking from one place to another place. What is the total loss? This is not the real figure. You are underestimating the figures. That is why I said that you would not have imported foodgrains at all. You would have saved the foodgrains. It is a serious question. The second part of the question was whether you would consider wastage and loss as one and the same thing. That is the issue.

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: मैं आपसे कह रहा हूं कि इस साल का आडिट में है। पिछले साल 1994-95 में 0.16 मिलियन टन था और इस साल जो लास हुआ भण्डारण का...

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: You are talking about the loss due to rats and moisture. What about other losses?

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: मैं टोटल कह रहा हूं। मैं कम्पलीट, टोटल क्वांटिटी बता रहा हूं। स्टोर और हैंडलिंग में जो टोटल लास हुआ है, वह बता रहा हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is answering.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Does it include pilfereage?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Yes.

टोटल जो लास हुआ, क्वांटिटी में कि 0.40 परसेंट जो शार्टेज हुआ वह मैं बता रहा हूं। मैं केवल लास नहीं बता रहा हूं। आप बता रहे हैं नमी के कारण और चूहों के कारण, यह आप बता रहे हैं। जो टोटल शार्टेज है उसके संदर्भ में मैंने आपको बताया है। इसका स्टेंडिंग कमेटी में भी मैंने जवाब दिया है।

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, is the Minister aware that a notional percentage is allowed by the FCI at the highest level for losses and wastages? This notional percentage has been allowed even in cases where there have been wastage caused by human rats which are pilfering these things. The point is this. There is a notional percentage allowed by the FCI at the highest level of policy makers for wastage due to rats as also moisture. There are cases of godowns where there has not been any wastage due to rats or moisture but because the wastage is within the percentage allowed, the human rats are taking advantage of the percentage and pilfering the whole thing. Is the Minister aware of this? Will he stop the whole thing? They are allowed a certain percentage of waste due to moisture. Though there is no wastage, they pilfer the whole thing. Later on they say that this wastage was due to rats and moisture. Is the Minister aware of it? Will he take steps to stop it?

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: सभापति महोदय, मैं इस सदन को और माननीय सदस्य को यह जानकारी देना चाहता हूं और साथ ही माननीय सदस्य के प्रति आभार भी व्यक्त करता हूं, आपने जो सवाल पूछा है, अभी माननीय सदस्य पटियाला से बोल रहे थे, हाल ही में मुझे इस तरह की सूचना मिली थी कि स्टाक शार्टेज है, इस संदर्भ में मैंने सी०बी०आई० को अभी पटियाला का, आपकी जगह का, अमलोह में जो फूडग्रेन शारटेज था, वह मामला सी०बी०आई० के सुपुर्द किया है। सी०बी०आई० अभी इन्वेस्टीगेशन कर रही है, इसलिए इस संदर्भ में आगे कुछ बताना मेरे लिए ठीक नहीं होगा।

Export Quota for Milk Powder and Infant Milk Food

*205. DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have halved the export quota for milk powder and infant milk food to 10,000 tonnes for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons for reducing the export quota; and

(c) the causes for apprehension that availability of milk and milk powder during the forthcoming lean season is likely to be much below the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The ceiling for exports of skimmed milk powder (SMP) and infant milk powder are fixed keeping in view the domestic availability and demand for liquid milk. Only an estimate of the availability of liquid milk during the coming lean season can be made. As per the current production trends, shortage of liquid milk in the forthcoming lean season is not apprehended.

DR. MOHAN BABU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is understood that the Ministry of Commerce instructed the Agricultural and Processed Products Exports Development Agency, APPEDA, to restrict shipments to the scaled-down ceiling. Earlier the Ministry had fixed the ceiling at 20,000 tonnes for the current year including an interim quota of 2,000 tonnes to be released during the lean season. The ceiling will be applicable to export shipments of milk powder and infant milk food in a bulk quantity. I would like to know why the Ministry scaled down the export quota by half. What is the number of actual shipments of milk powder exported so far during the current year?

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Sir, the hon. Member has put a very valid question. So far as milk powder and milk products are concerened, it is the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying which gives instructions to the Ministry of Commerce. They had told us to make it 20,000 tonnes. Then they again made it 10,000 tonnes. So far as the 2,000 tonnes quota which was earmarked for export in October, 1996 is concerned, it still remains. It has not been exported. Only a part of it has been exported. If the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying gives a higher ceiling, we have no objection. We will permit that without any difficulty.

DR. MOHAN BABU: Sir, my second supplementary is this. When India is emerging as the largest producer of milk and when the scope for exports is good, why did they scale down the export quota for milk powder alone? The Ministry of Commerce has not touched the export ceiling of 2,000 tonnes set for ghee and butter and 25 per cent quota for export promotion capital goods licence holder. I would like to know in whose case quota was left undisturbed. If so, why?

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that milk products in the country are going on increasing year after year. It has increased substantially. We are the largest producer of milk in the world. However, it is the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying which fixes the quantity that we can export. We are doing it under the guidance of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. That is why we follow the instructions given by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on policy matters. I shall be thankful to the hon. Member if he puts this question to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. They will be able to give a proper answer.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I do not know whether there will be time to get a reply to this question. As the Minister has pointed out, by and large, they take decisions based on the assessment of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on the availability of milk products in the country. But there is a catch in it. When we have to create an export market, we need to make a lot of developments. If you frequently change the quantum of exports, you lose your credibility in the external market. In view of this, it has been suggested many times that if there is a shortfall, that shortfall should be made up by imports, but the export commitment should be retained so that

we can make our presence felt in the external market which has been created after a great deal of effort and exercise.

DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. This is the strategy that we should maintain in the international market. The credibility of our products can be maintained only on the basis of continuous supply and other things. In the case of milk and milk powder, as I mentioned earlier, the Animal Husbandry Department is fixing the criteria. As regards import, it is under OGL. Earlier we were getting 75,000 tonnes of milk powder as donation from other countries. Now we have stopped that. Now we will consult the Animal Husbandry Department and the Dairy Department and ask them if they can give us a continuous quota. We will be happy if we can maintain a good reputation in the market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Inadequate Godown Space for RPDS

*202. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the godowns space available does not match with the magnitude of the revamped PDS;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase the godowns capacity;

(c) whether it is a fact that the resources have not been properly distributed so that adequate storage capacity is created; and

(d) if so, the plan and programme of Government in this area?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The godown capacity with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWC) and State Civil Supplies Corporations (SCSC) is adequate for implementing the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(c) and (d) In order to help the State Governments to augment the storage capacity, Government is extending financial assistance for construction of small godowns in the far-flung, hilly, remote and inaccessible areas. This assistance is given to States as loan and subsidy on 50:50 basis. An amount of Rs. 12.5 crores has been provided under the scheme for the financial year 1997-98, as against the current financial year's allocation of Rs. 7.55 crores.

Revival of Hindustan Cables Limited

*206. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a package of assistance for Hindustan Cables Limited and a strategy for its future was considered by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have instructed the Department of Telecommunications and Department of Heavy Industry to bilaterally work out the ways and means to see how the operations of the Company could be sustained till its revival; and

(c) if so, the details of arrangement decided between the Department of Telecommunications and Department of Heavy Industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Government considered a package of assistance to Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) and strategy for its future and decided that Department of